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**VIEW FROM THE PAST...**

Personal artifacts from our author

## **DORA BELLE NORTHCUTT...AN ENIGMA**

By

*Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.*

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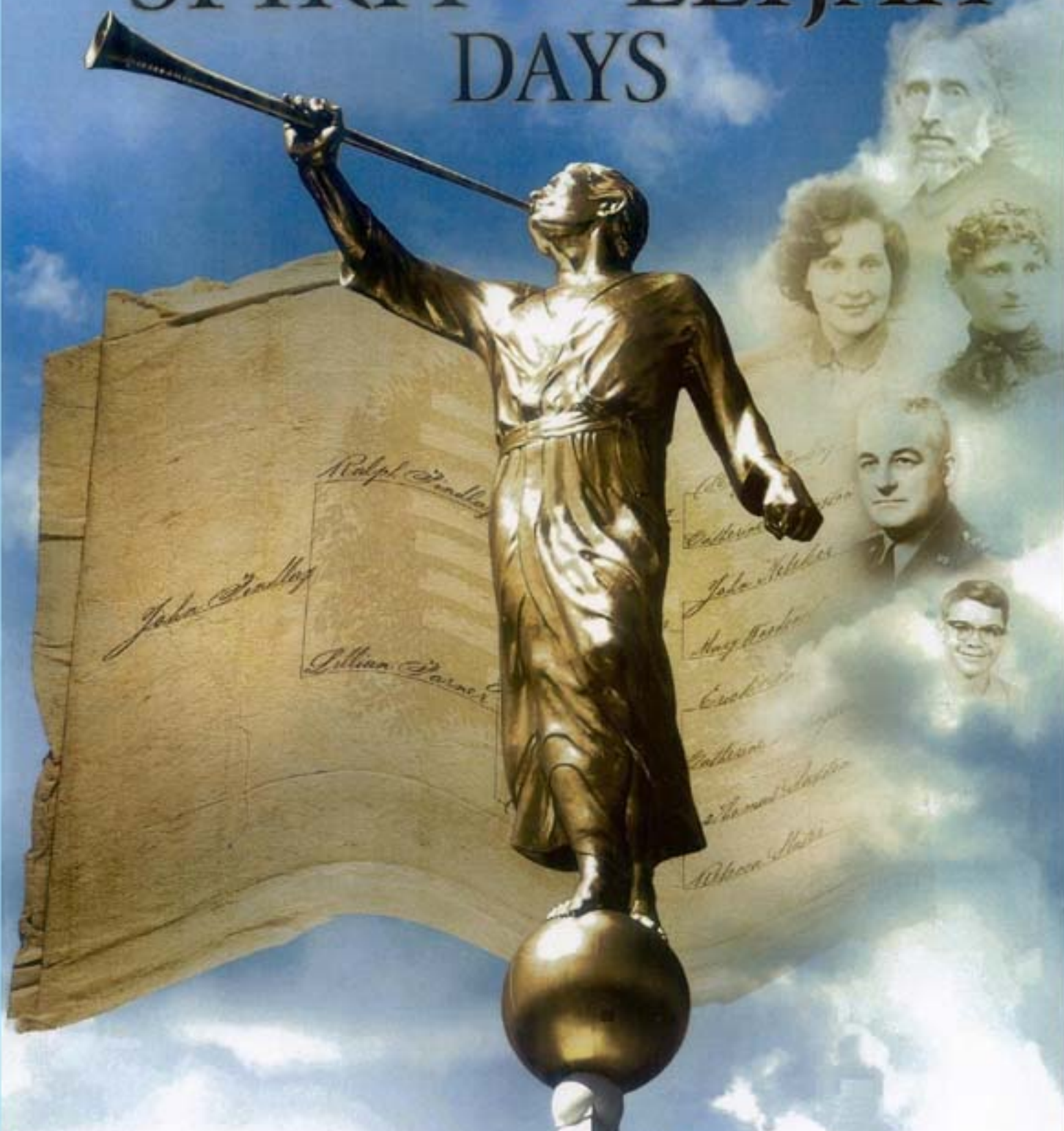
When researching family histories, one prefers discoveries to have an order. In fact the researcher depends on people, place and events to have a logical and precise order. Every once in awhile, someone upsets this order and forces researchers like myself to become confused and frustrated over the events, which have been discovered or... are in conflict with the known facts. The birth and parental identity of Dora Belle Northcutt is one such person.

*Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.*

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# SPIRIT OF ELIJAH DAYS



**"BEHOLD, I WILL SEND YOU ELIJAH THE PROPHET BEFORE THE COMING OF THE GREAT AND DREADFUL DAY OF THE LORD: AND HE SHALL TURN THE HEART OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN, AND THE HEART OF THE CHILDREN TO THEIR FATHERS, LEST I COME AND SMITE THE EARTH WITH A CURSE. MALACHI 4:5-6**

# **DORA BELLE NORTHCUTT...AN ENIGMA**

by *Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.* 2011

## **THE PROBLEM...**

When researching family histories, one prefers discoveries to have an order. In fact the researcher depends on people, place and events to have a logical and precise order.

Every once in awhile, someone upsets this order and forces researchers like myself to become confused and frustrated over the events, which have been discovered or...are in conflict with the known facts.

The birth and parental identity of Dora Belle Northcutt is one such person.

I was hoping I wouldn't have to write this article and I would discover the truth through hardcore research but it looks like if I won't take an interest in her, no one else will. I hope that someday, someone who cares, will investigate Dora and find the answers; in the meantime, I will present the facts.

My interest in Dora Belle comes from her marriage to Benjamin Edward Kimberlin on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 1899 in Washington County, Missouri. Both were living near Hulsey in Johnson Township at the time of their marriage.

The village of Hulsey was named after Elijah Eli Elias & Sarah Naomi (**CHOATE**) Hulsey and family who had moved into the area in the early 1820's. Hulsey is located near the border of northeastern Johnson Township in Washington County and the southern border of Meramec Township in Franklin County.

The Kimberling families are direct ancestors of mine, *i.e.*, Mary (**KIMBERLIN**) whom married Alexander "Alex" R. Pratt are my 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Grandparents. Mary is a daughter of Rinard & Frances Jane (**PETERS**) Kimberlin. Therefore, I have a vested research interest in the Kimberlin(g) family.

## **ESTABLISHING A BIRTHDATE...**

The 1900, 1910, 1920 and 1930 census places Benjamin & Dora in Johnson Township, Washington County, Missouri.

However, it is the events prior to this marriage that seem to be in conflict.

In order to establish a birth date norm, we will take the census data and break it down into the Birthblock for Dora.

### **1879-1880 Birthblock for Dora Belle Northcutt daughter of [to be determined]**

Date from the 1880 census states she was born [no record]

Date from the 1900 census states she was born May 1880 in Missouri.

Date from the 1910 census states she was born 1880 in Missouri.

Date from the 1920 census states she was born 1880 in Missouri.

Date from the 1930 census states she was born 1880 in Missouri.

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Date from the death certificate states she was born 1 September 1879 in Washington County, Missouri.

Date from the headstone states she was born 1879.

Date from the obituary states she was born

Date from "**History of Benjamin Edward Kimberlin and Family**" by Ethel K. Shaffer states she was born September 1, 1879.

As you can see the range of birth is from 1 September 1879 to May of 1880. This in any case should reveal her parents in the 1880 census of Johnson Township, Washington County, Missouri.

The 1880 census of Johnson Township, Washington County, Missouri was taken in the month of June. So, any child born in 1879 or May of 1880 should be listed with their parents.

Since most researchers and like myself assumed that Dora was the child of Samuel Phillip & Mary "Polly" Cecilia Josephine (**BALDRIDGE**) Northcutt, I did not look into her parental background until now. (2011)

After reviewing the evidence I have come to the conclusion that Dora was not their daughter!

## **CONFLICTS AND CONTRADICTIONS**

Since the evidence about Dora is pretty consistent with the September 1879 to May 1880 birthdate in all her census records, it would seem logical to establish her appearance in the 1880 census as being either 11 months old or 1 month old depending on when she was born for the June 1880 census date.

However, I cannot seem to locate a Dora, Belle or D. B. Northcutt in the 1880 census with any Northcutt family.

This can be explained in several ways. Either she was not born before the census date or she was not a Northcutt.

Looking at Dora's alleged father; Samuel Phillip Northcutt, we find him in the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1880 census living with his widowed mother; Susan (**JACKSON**) Northcutt in Johnson Township, Washington County, Missouri, United States and Samuel is age 19 and single!!!

Looking at Dora's alleged mother; Mary "Polly" "Mollie" Cecilia Josephine (**BALDRIDGE**), we find her living with her widowed mother; Mary Ann (**BRYANT**) Baldrige and next door to Susan (**JACKSON**) Northcutt at Johnson Township, Washington County, Missouri, United States and her future husband; Samuel Phillip Northcutt and Mary is age 20 and single!!!

In fact, Samuel and Mary (**BALDRIDGE**) Northcutt did not get married until 1883!



## **DORA BELLE NORTHCUTT...AN ENIGMA**

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### **1883 Marriage of Samuel Phillip Northcutt and Mary "Polly" "Mollie" Cecilia Josephine (BALDRIDGE)**

[1] Washington County, Missouri Marriage Record Book Volume "1" 1881-1889, page 124  
Phillip S. Northcutt of Johnson Twp., Washington Co., Mo. over 21; Mollie Baldrige of Johnson Twp., Washington Co., Mo. over 18; 16 November 1883 license; married on 18 November 1883 by C. M. Swan, JP at office, Washington Co.

<http://www.vienici.com/moabs/last.asp>

So, how could they be Dora's parents? This leads us to Ben and Dora's daughter; Ethel Mae (KIMBERLIN) Shaffer.

### **ETHEL MAE (KIMBERLIN) SHAFFER**

Ethel Mae (KIMBERLIN) was born 20 August 1899 in Algire, Johnson Township, Washington County, Missouri. Algire was a hub of commerce in the Johnson Township of Washington County. It was also the local post office and most of the mail delivered through Johnson Township came through Algire.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 1919, at Union, Union Township, Franklin County, Missouri, Ethel married Elmer Webster Shaffer, born 29 May 1889 in Franklin County, Missouri, died 26 June 1983 at Farmington, Perry Township, Saint Francois County, Missouri.

Elmer is the son of Daniel Webster (1852-1934) & Perlina Frances (1858-1943) (HULSEY) Shaffer.

Evidently, Ethel was interested in her family history and she wrote an article about her father, which I will reproduce in its entirety here.

#### **"History of Benjamin Edward Kimberlin and Family"**

by Ethel K. Shaffer, in possession of compiler, Floyd Thomas Pratt

*Benjamin Edward Kimberlin, son of Jacob and Delilah (HARPER) Kimberlin was born near Anthonies Mill, Missouri on July 14, 1870. In early manhood he went to Oklahoma Territory where he participated in the historic race for homesteads in 1893 on what was known as the Cherokee Strip near Blackwell. He and his brother-in-law Benjamin Pinson, each won a quarter section of land.*

*I remember him saying that he spent his last dollar for a horse, which he trained for weeks before the race was scheduled, then two days before the big day his horse stepped in a gopher hole and sprained a leg so badly he could not run. So, B.E. rode the race on a borrowed horse. He ran twelve miles before finding a claim he could stake as his own.*

*The first thing you had to do was dismount, drive a stake in the ground, and start an improvement. His improvement project was to dig a well. He had quite a hole dug before the next man stopped on that section so of course his claim was first and therefore valid.*

## **DORA BELLE NORTHCUTT...AN ENIGMA**

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*He said the whole country was just a bare prairie till after the race but by sun up the next day there was a city of tents including restaurants, lawyers offices, stores, and most important a land office where you could stake your claim and get all the necessary legal papers.*

*He ate in a tent restaurant where the sand was blowing in on the tables so thick he said "you had to scrape the butter before you cut off your slab." He built a 12 X 14 ft. sod house on his land and then came back to Missouri in 1893 and married Nancy (**JACKSON**) of near Richwoods, Missouri and took her back to Oklahoma.*

*On April 12, 1894 their first daughter, Hazel Ann, was born in the sod house with only his sister and another neighbor in attendance.*

*I heard him tell her that the rats in the sod used to kick dirt out on her and they kept her bed in the middle of the room to keep the rats from jumping on it.*

*They grew corn and wheat and made improvements on the homestead. Ben also hauled lumber for the town builders who were building the town of Blackwell by leaps and bounds.*

*Their chief entertainment in those days was going to watch the Indian dances. Their war whoops would ring out over the prairie and that, linked with the howling of cayotes, was the only sounds they knew. Sounds like a small bit of heaven to us in 1960 with the noise of our trains, planes, automobiles, and last but not least, television!*

*In 1896, Ben sent his wife back to his father's home in Missouri where she gave birth to their second daughter, Jessie Delilah, on February 20, 1896. They returned to Oklahoma and in March 1897, a son was born and named Lester. His mother died when he was ten days old and then little Lester died a few weeks later. They are both buried in a cemetery near Blackwell, Oklahoma.*

*Left with two little daughters, he brought them back to Missouri by train, to his parents, who with the help of his brother Orville and his wife Sadie, took care of them for him while he returned to Oklahoma and sold his homestead.*

*He loaded his meager possessions into a covered wagon and started back to Missouri. Roads were muddy and it was a long journey. Thirty days later he arrived at the home of his parents on Brazil Creek. His two little girls had completely forgotten him and he had to get acquainted with them all over again.*

*After a few months B.E. bought a 240 acre farm on Indian Creek near Algire, Missouri. There were no improvements on the land and he soon built a six room house (frame) which was the envy of the old timers who mostly lived in log houses.*

*This new "modern" structure built by the young handsome widower from Oklahoma, was two stories high and painted white with green trim and what was most amazing, the windows were large one pane affairs and the living room boasted a double window known as a bay window, which was as modern then as our picture windows were when they came out a few years ago.*

# **DORA BELLE NORTHCUTT...AN ENIGMA**

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*Ben and his two little girls, with his Mother and a hired girl, moved into the new house in 1898 and in a few months he married again.*

*This bride was Miss Dora Belle (**NORTHCUTT**), daughter of Rev. B.F. and Celia Northcutt, whose farm joined his on the south.*

*On August 20, 1899 their first child arrived, Ethel Mae and on May 9, 1902 another daughter was born, Myrtle Alice, who died of pneumonia in February 1904 and is buried in the Bryant Cemetery one mile south of the home. The family lived at the Indian Creek place until all three daughters were married.*

*Then in 1923 they traded farms with Mr. William Jackson for his farm on the Meramec River near Meramec State Park. They lived on this farm until 1946 when they moved to 228 Watson Road in Sullivan, Missouri where they lived the remainder of their lives.*

*Dora Belle died July 7, 1953 at the age of 73 and Benjamin Edward died April 16, 1954 at the age of 84. Both are buried in Odd Fellows Cemetery in Sullivan, Mo.*

*Benjamin Edward Kimberlin born July 14, 1870, died April 16, 1954*

*Dora Belle (**NORTHCUTT**) Kimberlin- born September 1, 1879, died July 7, 1953.*

*Benjamin Edward Kimberlin was the son of Jacob, brother of Michael L. Kimberlin.*

*Ethel K. Shaffer<sup>1</sup>*

When I first read this document, I filed it and thought it was a nice historical piece about the Oklahoma theft of the land promised to the American natives by treaty. The treaty stated, "as long as the grass grows and the sun shines this land would belong to the native Americans."

That was until the American Government decided like all the other 100 treaties they broke, to steal the land from the natives. When the Americans found gold in Tennessee and Georgia they took the land away from the natives, when they found oil in Oklahoma they took the land away from the natives.

But, that's another story. More about American treachery can be found in my book..."**Henry Pratt Family of Greene County, Tennessee**" © 2003 by Floyd Thomas Pratt.

## **DOCUMENTATION**

It appears that Ethel, with good intentions, made a great effort in relating her family's history as she knew and lived the events.

However, if the article was written in the 1960's, then she would have been aged 60+ and maybe her memory was not the best.

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<sup>1</sup> Where I obtained this document I can't recall. Ethel K. Shaffer is Ethel Mae (**KIMBERLIN**) mentioned above. It appears the document was written circa 1960 as she alludes to this in paragraph number five. The document was typed on white paper one and one-half sheet. I have enclosed it here in its entirety for future generations. Floyd Thomas Pratt

## **DORA BELLE NORTHCU TT...AN ENIGMA**

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Several errors are evident in her account. Without taking apart the whole article I want to bring to your attention when she stated that Dora Belle Northcutt was the daughter of Rev. B.F. and Cecilia Northcutt.

Researched evidence has established that Samuel Phillip Northcutt married Mary "Polly" "Mollie" Cecilia (**BALDRIDGE**) in 1883.

The question arises...did Ethel make a known mistake about the parents of Dora?

### **REV. B. F. NORTHCU TT**

I can't find a B. F. Northcutt. Checking the Northcutt's all the way back to Samuel & Nancy Sallee Northcutt and all the sons born and all the grandsons born I can't find a B. F., which probably stands for Benjamin Franklin Northcutt.

My only explanation is Ethel may have commingled and confused the names. This isn't the only time this confusion has taken place.

On Dora's death certificate, Ethel is the informant and states that Dora's parents were...S. P. Northcutt and Celia Bryant.



# DORA BELLE NORTHCUTT...AN ENIGMA

by Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I. 2011

THE DIVISION OF HEALTH OF MISSOURI  
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

FILED JUL 15 1953

State File No. 21198

BIRTH NO. 10-58 REG. DIST. NO. 114 PRIMARY REG. DIST. NO. 4186 Registrar's No. 44

1. PLACE OF DEATH  
a. COUNTY Franklin  
b. CITY (if outside corporate limits, enter RURAL and give township) Sullivan  
c. LENGTH OF STAY in this place (Specify) 7 yrs.  
d. FULL NAME OF DECEASED (if not in hospital or institution, give street address or location) 228 Watson

2. USUAL RESIDENCE (When deceased lived. If institution, give name of institution)  
a. STATE Missouri b. COUNTY Franklin  
c. CITY (if outside corporate limits, enter RURAL and give township) Sullivan  
d. STREET ADDRESS (if rural, also location) 228 Watson

3. NAME OF DECEASED  
a. (First) Dora b. (Middle) Kimberlin c. (Last) Kimberlin d. DATE OF DEATH (Month) (Day) (Year) July 7 1953

4. SEX female e. COLOR OR RACE white f. MARRIED, NEVER MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED (Specify) Married g. DATE OF BIRTH (Month) (Day) (Year) Sept. 1 1870 73 10-11-11

10. USUAL OCCUPATION (If retired, state former occupation) housewife 11. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY none 12. BIRTHPLACE (City and State or Foreign Country) Washington County Mo. 13. CITIZENSHIP (If U.S.A.) U.S.A.

13a. FATHER'S NAME S.P. Northcutt 13b. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME Celia Bryant 14. NAME OF HUSBAND OR WIFE H.E. Kimberlin

15. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? (Yes, no, or unknown) no 16. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. none 17. INFORMANT'S SIGNATURE OR NAME Ethel Shaffer ADDRESS Sullivan Mo.

18. CAUSE OF DEATH  
Enter only condition per ICD-9 (a), (b), and (c)  
\* This space and space for reports of signs, symptoms, or pathologic findings, etc. It is not the cause, effect, or complication which caused death.

19. MEDICAL CERTIFICATION  
I. DISEASE OR CONDITION DIRECTLY LEADING TO DEATH (a) Generalized Carcinomatosis  
ANTECEDENT CAUSES  
If any condition, if any, giving rise to the above cause (a) during the underlying cause and.  
DUE TO (b) Ovarian Tumor  
II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS  
Conditions contributing to the death but not related to the disease or condition causing death.  
19a. DATE OF OPERATION 1950 19b. MAJOR FINDINGS OF OPERATION ovarian tumor 20. AUTOPSY? yes ☐ no ☒

21. ACCIDENT SURVEY HOW/WHEN  
21a. PLACE OF INJURY (e.g., in vehicle, home, in room, factory, mine, etc.) 175X  
21b. CITY, TOWN, OR TOWNSHIP (COUNTY) (STATE)  
21c. INJURY OCCURRED  
WHOLELY ☐ NOT WHOLELY ☐  
21d. HOW AND WHEN INJURY OCCURRED

22. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from admission 1951 to July 7, 1953, that I last saw the deceased alive on July 6, 1953, and that death occurred at 3:05 PM, from the cause and on the date stated above.

23. SIGNATURE S.P. Anderson M.D. (Physician or other) 23b. ADDRESS Sullivan, Mo. 23c. DATE SIGNED 7/17/53

24. BURIAL, CREMATION, DISPOSITION burial 24b. DATE July 9 1953 24c. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY U.P. 24d. LOCATION (City, town, or county) (State) Sullivan Mo.

DATE FILED BY LOCAL REG. 7-8-53 REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE Ed. L. Luntz 25. FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE Thos. P. Shaffer ADDRESS

(Forward Embalmers' Statements on Reverse Side)

[http://www.sos.mo.gov/images/archives/deathcerts/1953/1953\\_00021194.PDF](http://www.sos.mo.gov/images/archives/deathcerts/1953/1953_00021194.PDF)

As you can see, when she put S. P. Northcutt as Dora's father; she was referring to Samuel Phillip Northcutt, which was in error and she put Celia Bryant as Dora's mother confusing Mary Ann (BRYANT)...Celia's mother.

This is not Ethel's fault; she wrote what she had been told by her mother!

## **DORA BELLE NORTHCUTT...AN ENIGMA**

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### **WILDCARDS...**

Therefore, another option as to locating Dora's parents is to wildcard Dora...Belle...in the 1880 census and hoping for a hit in the Washington County, Missouri area.

I found the following...

Dora B. Evans born 1879 daughter of William M. & Sary A. ( ) Evans in Belgrade Twp,  
Dora Johnston born 1879 daughter of General & Serenia ( ) Johnston in Union Twp,  
Dora Robinson born 1878 daughter of Richard and J. ( ) Robinson in Harmony Twp,  
Dora Woods born 1878 daughter of Paris E. & Ann ( ) Woods in Walton Twp,  
Dora Lucas born 1876 daughter of Phillip & Mary M. ( ) Lucas in Belgrade Twp,  
Dora Morris born 1876 daughter of Jerry & Josephine ( ) Morris of Walton Twp,  
Belle Gillam born 1878 daughter of B.H. & M. F. Gillam of Harmony Twp,  
Belle Woolford born 1878 daughter of Pratte & Narsis ( ) Woolford of Belgrade Twp,

Of course, there is no evidence that Dora was born in Washington County and there are an equally numbered Dora's and Belle's in same census in surrounding counties.

At first you might say, well, trace the path of each of those girls listed above and see if you can eliminate them due to death, marriage and death of parents or any other event that might discredit them as our subject. True...this would decrease the candidates but not give you conclusively the parents of our Dora Belle \_\_\_\_\_.

Therefore, my suggestion is to try to locate an adoption record of a Dora Belle \_\_\_\_\_???

Since Dora used the name of Northcutt on her marriage license, and we know she was living in the Hulsey area by her 1899 marriage date, then maybe her "adopted" name was Northcutt.

### **WHAT WE DO KNOW...**

A girl named Dora Belle \_\_\_\_\_ was born between 1 September 1879 and May 1880 in Missouri. This has been established through census records, headstone information, death certificate and family records...all related to others by Dora herself.

How long she remained unmarried is a good guess. When people did not want secrets about their past known, they usually omitted the whole truth or fabricated new truth to hide their past.

Born in circa 1880 she would have been marrying age at 13 or more, which would have been after 1893.

She told her daughter; Ethel she was the daughter of Rev. B. F. & Celia Northcutt. However, no evidence as to a Rev. B. F. Northcutt can be found.



## **DORA BELLE NORTHCUTT...AN ENIGMA**

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This confusion is compounded in by her daughter; Ethel as the informant on her death certificate of July 1953 and states that Dora's father was S. P. Northcutt and mother was Mary Bryant.

Ethel writes a family history of her father's activities around the 1960's and stated her mother was Miss Dora Belle Northcutt, indicating that Dora was not previously married prior to her marriage to Benjamin Edward Kimberlin on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 1899 in Washington County, Missouri...as far as Ethel knew.

This is important because, maybe Dora Belle had married a \_\_\_\_\_ Northcutt before she married Benjamin Edward Kimberlin...hence the married name Dora Belle Northcutt.

After checking the marriage records, I could not find a Dora Belle \_\_\_\_\_ marrying a Northcutt, but then again, I could not check all the surrounding counties either.

Dora tells her daughter she is the daughter of Samuel Phillip & Mary "Polly" "Mollie" Cecilia (**BALDRIDGE**) Northcutt and the rumor has continued to this day. However, as proven earlier in this report, Dora was born 3-4 years before these two married.

Therefore, either Dora Belle \_\_\_\_\_ was an orphan of someone else other than a Northcutt and Samuel and Mary took her in or Dora Belle was trying to hide her illegitimate heritage. If she was an orphan, then why hide her true parentage? Maybe she did not know the truth.

How long she lived with Samuel and Mary is undetermined and there is no evidence she even lived with them. This is due to the void in census data from the 1880 to the 1900 census. And since Dora married before 1900 we cannot determine whom she was living with prior to the marriage.

She could have been taken in after the 1883 marriage of Samuel and Mary "Mollie" or anytime up until her marriage in 1899.

Looking at the 1900 census we see she is living next door to her alleged Uncle William Smith Northcutt family at house #179 and way over at house #156 is living her alleged parents; Samuel and Mary (**BALDRIDGE**) Northcutt.

Since Samuel and Mary are living so far apart from Ben and Dora, checking William Smith & Amanda A. (**HAYS**) Smith family I see they were married in 1876 and could have had a daughter born 1879-1880. However, in the 1880 census, they do not have a daughter named Dora or Belle or D.B. listed as one of their children. This eliminates them as the parents of Dora.

Samuel had another brother named John Wesley Northcutt whom married in 1882 to Elizabeth (**HULSEY**) daughter of Charles LeRoy & Eliza Jane (**RODERIQUE**) Hulsey.

Since they were married after Dora was born...this eliminates them as Dora's parents.

This covers all the male children of George W. & Susan Ann (**JACKSON**) Northcutt's children.

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Therefore, based on the facts surrounding her life, I cannot bridge her to the Samuel and Mary (**BALDRIDGE**) Northcutt family or any Northcutt family.

I suspect she was born someone else and as customary to orphans in those days, the family she lived with and was raised by gave her the Northcutt name. She could have been an orphan, or illegitimate and to verify this I would, as instructing an interested family researcher, check the Washington County probate, adoption and court records for any reference to a Dora Belle \_\_\_\_\_.

Also, check the newspapers from 1879-1900 concerning subjects about a Dora Belle \_\_\_\_\_ who was going to live with the Samuel & Mary (**BALDRIDGE**) Northcutt family.

Could Dora Belle be an illegitimate daughter of Samuel Phillip Northcutt? Yes, this is another possibility.

In the 1880 census, Samuel is living with his mother and is age 19 and single. Could he have fathered a daughter before he married Mary (**BALDRIDGE**) in 1883? Yes.

I had another relative who had a similar circumstance. Rev. Albert Paris Missey loved and courted Mary (**MISSEY**) a far distant cousin and wanted to marry her...before and even after she became pregnant. How we know these circumstances behind this relationship is... Rev. Albert Paris Missey kept a journal and detailed the information for his posterity.

For reasons unknown, maybe from pressure of both families, she refused to marry Albert and Albert later married Mary Jane (**STROUP**) and raised his illegitimate daughter; Ethel Marie (**MISSEY**) who lived with them until adulthood.

So, that scenario of Samuel being Dora's legitimate father is another possibility.

However, Dora should not be listed with Northcutt as a maiden name. There is no proof she ever was a Northcutt.

Dora has perpetuated all this false evidence up to now on what has been revealed about her, including census, family records and hearsay evidence through her daughter, Ethel.

If adoption papers can be found...which I doubt, those papers should reveal her true parentage. Orphans or illegitimate children were often "adopted" into families without any legal requirements, even to the point of changing the child's birth surname without permission.

However, until the truth can be discovered, Dora Belle Northcutt can, in my opinion, out of respect, be listed with the Samuel & Mary (**BALDRIDGE**) Northcutt family with the stipulation her true parentage has not been determined.

*Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.*

3 March 2011 revised 2014



# Pedigree Chart for Floyd Thomas "Tom" Pratt F. H. C., M. A. G. I. by Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

Page 1



## A Little Something About Your Author.....

*Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.*



At the age of 19, Tom Pratt embarked on a career in law enforcement. This experience gave him training in detective and investigative skills. Little did Mr. Pratt know, how useful these skills would be in the field of genealogy.

Tom Pratt started his family research career in 1975 after becoming a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. His first calling as a new member was to serve in the newly created genealogical department or known today as the Family History Center in the Springfield, Missouri ward. This two-year calling gave Mr. Pratt a tremendous amount of experience helping others to research their families.

In fact, he felt family research came easy and required little effort on his part. In reality, years of reading and studying increased his expertise and he made it look easy to others.

Over the course of several years, Mr. Pratt was asked by his church to instruct several family history courses. This experience established a deep profound love for family and ancestors.

It was not uncommon for Mr. Pratt to spend 4 to 8 hours a day researching and compiling family histories in addition to his duties, as an entrepreneur in the insurance business.

The first major achievement for Mr. Pratt was a breakthrough on his Pratt family back to the early 1800's. Not satisfied with just the direct line research, Mr. Pratt branched out to research all connected lines and allied families.

This dedication led to 42,000 individuals and achieved expert status for Mr. Pratt on the families of middle and eastern Missouri, eastern and western Tennessee and central North Carolina.

Concerning Mr. Pratt's style of research, he is a strong supporter of the "hands on" approach. When he took family vacations, they usually went to libraries, cemeteries, courthouses, National Archive centers, and visited family members in various states. He attended multi-state family reunions and obtained his material from the actual sources when possible.



# A Little Something About Your Author.....

Being a researcher of the highest degree, in 1991, Mr. Pratt formed the Pratt Publications Company and offered to the public, a series of books titled, The Pratt Progenitor Papers. This series of volumes are a collection of legal documents, stories, pictures and historical presentations concerning the families of Missouri, Tennessee and North Carolina.

The first three Volumes were released to the public in 1991 and were issued to 18 different libraries including the Library of Congress and the St. Louis Public Library. The next 7 volumes were published with a total of 43 volumes scheduled for publication.

In 1996, Mr. Pratt formed the Genealogical Institute to further the education of serious researchers.

The Genealogical Institute offers a series of educational materials to teach and instruct the uninitiated in the procedures of family history research. These courses offer "a hands on" curriculum designed to instruct in investigative, deductive reasoning and logical procedures for tracking your family history.

Beginners and experienced researchers have found a treasure chest of knowledge when undertaking these courses. Mr. Pratt has taken the hobby of genealogy and has enhanced it into a science. Heavy on instructions concerning documentation, research procedures, alternative sources and common public records, this course is a valuable tool for the researcher. One of Mr. Pratt's favorite sections of the course is teaching researchers "how to stop" researching and compile their information for publication.

Upon completion of the educational courses from the Genealogical Institute, the graduate is awarded the **Master Accreditation of the Genealogical Institute. (M.A.G.I.)**

This designation is equivalent to a Doctorate Degree and signifies the recipient has been trained and demonstrated superior research techniques.

Mr. Pratt's ability in family history research has amazed many educated researchers. When Mr. Pratt is asked for help concerning their "brick wall" in their family research, his quick wit and logical mind rapid fires instructions and procedures so fast they cannot write the material quickly enough. Little do they realize this knowledge has been acquired over 30 years of experience and research.

In June of 2000, Mr. Pratt undertook a new and unprecedented task.

Outside of Washington, Franklin County, Missouri is an old cemetery called the Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery. This cemetery has many pioneer heroes and ancestors of various descendants from that region. Some of the inhabitants were born in the 1750's and traveled west to Missouri after the 1803 Louisiana Purchase.

# A Little Something About Your Author.....

Mr. Pratt took down all the information off the headstones, including every person in the cemetery and researched each individual related or not. 1000 man-hours and two years later, he published the book "Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery of Franklin County, Missouri"© 2001.

Obtaining newspapers, legal documents, personal interviews with ancestors and researching various sources for any and all information concerning the history of the cemetery and the inhabitants produced this master text. What makes this book stand out among the rest is basic content and structure.

First, it is the only book to cover the known and reported inhabitants of an entire cemetery.

Second, this book reports on each inhabitant, their birth and activities throughout their life until their death, including their ancestors, spouses and children.

Third, even the index is unique, listing the individual and their father's name if known. This is extremely helpful when several individuals have the same given name.

Upon examination, professional researchers have hailed this body of work as a masterpiece and a standard in which all future research of cemeteries should be based. In their opinion, no one has ever produced a body of work about a cemetery as unique and professional as this publication.

Currently, Mr. Pratt is working on a series of books from the [Pratt Archive Collections](#), which is a series of biographical publications concerning a progenitor and a generation of descendants. This collection is a "cradle to grave" report, which covers the subject's ancestry, birth, marriage, children, and geographical domiciles as well as the political environment during the subject's lifetime.

In addition, Mr. Pratt is working on additional volumes of the Pratt Progenitor Papers and several books on public records.

With all these accomplishments, Mr. Pratt humbly refers to himself as a Genealogical Anthropologist...resurrecting progenitors.

We in the genealogical world are deeply grateful to be associates of a man of Mr. Pratt's caliber. Through his dedication to helping the novice as well as the professional researcher, future generations will benefit by his advances in the genealogical field.

In addition, we are thankful for the inspiration that sparks men like Mr. Pratt to magnify their love for people and history. We feel, with a lifetime dedicated to the genealogical pursuit of truth and knowledge, Mr. Pratt's accumulative body of work, will stand as a quintessential manifestation of this divine love.

Lewton Cole, Chairman  
**Genealogical Institute**



# GENEALOGY ETIQUETTE

1. Do not give copies or reproduce the information you received from the compiler or author without written permission.
2. In your research efforts if you are able to advance the research, then reciprocate by sharing your research information with the compiler.
3. Use the information you receive as a starting point for your research of your families.
4. If you decide to use information you have received, in a book, document or research material, be sure to acknowledge the author or compiler of that material.
5. All inquiries by third parties for a copy of the material should be forwarded to the original compiler or author.
6. Do not loan or share your information, family heirlooms, special documents, one of a kind, pictures, or irreplaceable materials to non-professional researchers or family members. These types of materials seen to disappear or become damaged.
7. Make copies of important documents or materials when at libraries and be sure to write the name of the book, source, letter or film with the author's name and page number and year of publication.
8. Genealogy work that is not documented is of little value. Remember, you are leaving a trail for those who follow. If future researchers have to verify your work, then of what value is your work?
9. Collect family stories from those relatives who are still alive. This is a short cut to your past and they hold a world of knowledge about your family.
10. Do not try to finance all your research alone. Ask for financial assistance from interested family members.

Remember, the family history information that is so easily exchanged today by computer was acquired over years and years of on-site research. While many were engaged in raising families, working for income, and surviving, genealogist researchers did these things **AND** spent their free time in pursuit of the truth about their ancestors. This pursuit required great sacrifice of time, effort and money. Many researchers went to the actual locations to view the marriage, deed, death and birth records including visiting the cemeteries across the United States and foreign countries. This is why it is important to follow the above guidelines; by doing so, you give respect to their work and honor to their memory. Thank You.

*Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.*

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